
Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on December 22, 2020

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) was held on December 22, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate, and/or vote on the following docket.

In attendance: Chairman Ronald Gerwatowski, John Harrington, Todd Bianco, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro. Remotely: Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Patricia Lucarelli, Cynthia Wilson-Frias and Rudolph Falcone.

- I. Chairman Gerwatowski called the Open Meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Docket No. 5075 – North Kingstown Warehouse, LLC (Company)** – The Company applied for eligibility of the North Kingstown Warehouse generation unit, a 0.200 MW AC (0.248 MW DC) solar facility located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. After consideration, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to adopt PUC Consultant’s recommendation to conditionally approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **Docket No. 5078 – Plainfield Pike Solar, LLC (Company)** – The Company applied for eligibility of the SOUTHERN02919SOLAR198RE generation unit, a 0.198 MW AC solar facility located in Johnston, Rhode Island as a New Renewable Energy Resource. After consideration, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to adopt PUC Consultant’s recommendation to approve the application. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **Docket No. 5100 – Seth’s Way Solar LLC (Project)** - Seth’s Way Solar, LLC submitted a petition under Section 10 of The Narragansett Electric Company Renewable Energy Growth Program for Non-Residential Customers, RIPUC No. 2152-C to ask the PUC to allow the Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid to permit a third extension on the deadline for Seth’s Way to achieve operation of its solar project at expected availability and capacity claiming that the extension is necessary because of development and construction delays caused by COVID-19. Chairman Gerwatowski summarized and reviewed the facts of the case. After consideration, Chairman Gerwatowski moved to deny the petition. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** National Grid’s motion to intervene was rendered moot based on this decision.
- V. **Docket No. 3476 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to National Grid’s Service Quality Plan for its gas operations. On July 20, 2020, National Grid filed a Request for Relief of Penalty Because of Exogenous Events. Specifically, the Company seeks relief from penalties assessed under its Gas Service Quality Plan for the first and second quarters of fiscal year

2020. The Company was unable to meet its metrics under the Service Quality Plan because of incidents that occurred. After a review of the record, Chairman Gerwatowski found that the request lacks justification and moved to deny the Company's request for declaration of exogenous events for these two incidents, Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VI. Docket No. 4290 – Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) – In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-1-27.12, DHS submitted a rate request for the Low- Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Enhancement Plan. DHS is requesting that the LIHEAP Enhancement Charge be set at \$0.81 for each customer taking service from an electric or gas distribution company for the calendar year 2021. Chairman Gerwatowski summarized the background and fund balance over the last two years. The Division recommended the LIHEAP factor remain at \$0.80 as it will collect close to the statutory annual cap. After review, Chairman Gerwatowski to set the LIHEAP Enhancement Charge at \$0.80. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VII. Docket No. 4935 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid - This docket relates to National Grid's proposed Last Resort Service rates submitted pursuant to the Standard Offer Service Procurement Plan approved by the PUC in this docket. The PUC considered National Grid's October 20, 2020 filing for approval to implement rate changes to the Last Resort Service (LRS) Rate for the Industrial Group for the period January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. After review, the following votes were made:

- a. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to grant the Company's motion for protective treatment of confidential information, Attachment 5 and Attachment 6 of the October 20 filing. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- b. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the Company's proposed LRS rates for the Industrial Group as filed. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

VIII. Docket No. 5080 - The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid – This docket relates to National Grid's proposed 2021-2023 System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Three-Year Plan, budget and associated incremental charge to the Energy Efficiency Charge. The total SRP budget proposed is \$0.00 and the proposed SRP factor is an incremental charge of \$0.0000 per kWh to the energy efficiency factor. The SRP factor represents a reduction from the current SRP factor. After review, the following votes were made:

- a. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to accept the Office of Energy Resources' motion to intervene. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- b. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to approve the change in SRP factor as included in the filing. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- c. Chairman Gerwatowski moved to provisionally grant National Grid's motion for protective treatment of confidential information, Appendix 3, subject to further examination by the PUC. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IX. **Docket No. 5076 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – This docket relates to the National Grid's Company's 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Plan (Three-Year Plan) and 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement Program Plan (Annual Plan), referred to collectively as the Combined Plan. The Combined Plan is a settlement between National Grid, the Office of Energy Resources (OER), the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, (Division), the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC), Acadia Center, and the Green Energy Consumers Alliance (collectively, the Settlement Parties). The Plans include proposed budgets and associated Energy Efficiency Charge for effect January 1, 2021. The PUC reviewed the record. The following votes were made on outstanding issues:

1. Forecast

- a. National Grid's Electricity sale forecast – Chairman Gerwatowski moved that National Grid utilize an electric sales forecast reflected in National Grid's response to record request 12-5. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

2. Program Review

- a. Energy Management Framework Platform – Commissioner Anthony moved to disallow funding for EMFP software system. Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- b. Workforce Development – Commissioner Anthony moved to disallow the \$1.05 million incremental funding for workforce development. Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- c. Electric Vehicle (EV) Demand Demonstration – Chairman Gerwatowski moved to deny funding for the EV Demand Demonstration. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- d. EnergyWise Program - Commissioner Gold moved to freeze the EnergyWise Programs for both electric and gas at the 2020 budget levels. These programs include the: Non-Income Eligible Residential EnergyWise. Non-Income Eligible Residential EnergyWise Multi-Family, Income Eligible Residential Single Family and Income Eligible Multi-Family. Chairman Gerwatowski seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- e. Moderate Income Classification – Chairperson Gerwatowski moved to direct the company that when a moderate-income classification definition and plan is developed, the Company shall file a description with the PUC prior to implementation for consideration and examination by the PUC.

